

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action dated June 12, claims 1 – 27 were subject to a restriction requirement. In response, Applicants have amended claim 22, elected claims, and traversed the restriction requirement. Applicants hereby request reconsideration of the application in view of the amended claim and the below-provided remarks.

Amendment to Claim 22

Claim 22 was amended to correct a typographical error. Specifically, claim 22 was amended to depend from claim 21 instead of claim 20. Applicants request that claim 22 be considered in view of the above-described amendment.

Election of Species

Applicants elect Species III, which corresponds to figure 16 as specified in the Office action. The listing of claims readable on Species III are claims 1 – 4, 7, 8, 16 – 18, 21, and 22.

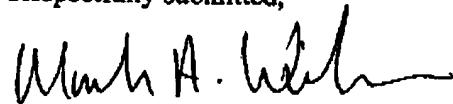
Traverse of Restriction Requirement

As recited in the MPEP 803, to establish a proper restriction requirement, “Examiners must provide reasons and/or examples to support conclusions.” Additionally, “[f]or purposes of the initial requirement, a serious burden on the examiner may be *prima facie* shown if the examiner shows by appropriate explanation of separate classification, or separate status in the art, or a different field of search as defined in MPEP 808.02.” [MPEP 803]

The present restriction requirement provides no reasons and/or examples to support the conclusion that claims 1 – 27 are directed to patentably distinct species. Additionally, the restriction requirement provides no explanation of separate classification, or separate status in the art, or a different field of search. As a result, Applicants assert that the burden of establishing the basis for the restriction requirement has not been met and that the present restriction requirement is improper.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments and remarks made herein.

Respectfully submitted,



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